

Westmont College The Horizon

Voice

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Follow up: Student clarifies 'thin-skinned' response

Over the past week, I found that my article generated much more buzz than I thought it would. I guess I was somewhat naive with regards to the necessary gravity the topic of race should be given.

To anyone I angered or deeply offended, that was not my intent, nor was it my intent to attack or lash out at anyone or any group. I think that if I had to write it again, I would choose my words more carefully. Certain terminology used in the article I now feel is openly offensive, especially to minorities here on campus.

I am not an English major or even a good writer. It was partially due to my poor ability to express myself in writing that I think so much resentment followed. I knew however, when I wrote the article that it would be somewhat controversial, and I do not think it could have expressed my opinion without causing some controversy.

Many students have talked with me or written to me since the publication of my piece, and I thank those of you that have helped me understand more about what race means here at Westmont, and what it means to be conscious of and sensitive to people of different racial backgrounds in this environment.

The example of my experience abroad was not the best example to use, and perhaps race may not have been the best example to use either. What I do feel is that my real point partially slipped through the cracks with all the discussion of race. I believe I could have written the response differently and expressed my same opinion by talking about an issue totally unrelated to race that I think people are, at times, overly sensitive about.

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An example of such an issue could be politics, religion, sexuality, or spirituality. These are all subjects that I feel people often tend to tread too carefully around at Westmont, and that cause too much offense. Now I also think that I made a mistake in lumping race into these groups of topics, mainly because race-more than any of the other potential topics-deals with a self-identity that we are born with and can never change, no matter how we change, or where we live.

I still say that political correctness on this campus sometimes goes to far and that many people at Westmont are too thin-skinned. I will also say though, that the discussion my letter caused has made me question my stance more than before, and I am not as sure as I used to be.

In the future, I will be more careful about offending the Christian brothers and sisters that I want to share my opinions with, will be more careful about the way I compose and present them. Also, I welcome any dialogue on this subject, or my previous article.

Again, thank you to the many students have come to me to tell me they agree or disagree, or to ask me questions about what I wrote. Feel free to email me, or stop me on campus.

-Taylor Boubel